

**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**5-02-11 meeting Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of May 2, 2011**  
Approved June 6, 2011

Present: Chairman Janice O'Brien, Alternate Leanne Miner and Alternate/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Also present: Open Space Chairman Dennis Howland.

**MINUTES**

Chrm. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting as written. Motion seconded by Alt. Bolduc with unanimous except for Alt. Miner who abstained as she was not present at that meeting.

**TOWN FOREST**

Northeast Utilities/PSNH grants

It was noted that the Northeast Utilities/PSNH grants are now on an annual cycle, and the next award will not be made until the Fall. The Commission will re-submit an application in August for consideration of a grant to fund improvements to the Town Forest. Mr. Howland suggested that in the meantime he could continue with clearing the new trails, blazing the new sections using blue blaze paint left from last year, and working on a new map. He suggested that as a (plan B) some work could continue to be done, but would not include such items as the large Oak Ridge sign from the north parking lot, the Town Forest Ordinance signs at the end of 3A and 3B where there is little to no traffic, the "end of trail" signs from a few places in Glen Oakes and some other signage. He presented a spread sheet outlining his suggestions.

Chrm. O'Brien suggested using some of the \$318 that is designated for the Open Space Committee for the signage and associated posts and hardware and other work as necessary. Chrm. O'Brien said the protocol would be that if the Open Space Committee agreed, they would vote to expend up to a certain dollar amount. Mr. Howland will discuss the issue with the Open Space Committee at the May 3, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Howland said he has been hauling out trash from Oak Ridge along Tavern Road and he is hoping to get someone with a truck to haul it to the Bulky Day collection site on May 21, 2011.

**Oak Ridge**

Kiosk – Oak Ridge north parking lot is a potential project. It was agreed that this could be budgeted out for the next Energy Grant application.

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **5-02-11 meeting Minutes**

#### **Trail Map:**

Mr. Howland suggested updating the trail map, having it printed with solvent inks and posted in both Kiosks. The Members thought this was a good idea especially since it could be done with a printer for a few cents per map.

#### **Trail names:**

Mr. Howland suggested the 4 entry points of Tavern Road could be called exit 1, exit 2, exit 3 and exit 4 with some arrow signs. It was agreed that this is a good action that would avoid confusion.

#### **Glen Oakes**

Mr. Howland suggested, and the Members agreed with, the following:

- Erect a sign at the end of the Link trail indicating the way back to the parking lot.
- Mark the new Forest bypass trail at each end with a small routed sign at each end.
- Erect "End of Trail" or "Property Boundary" signs where the Town Forest leaved Town property. Mr. Howland added his suggestion to use metal for durability against weather and vandalism.
- Go with a Forest bypass versus bog bridging at this time.

There was a mention of gates and Chrm. O'Brien remembered that at one time there was a conversation relative to gating, but the Members decided against it for a number of reasons.

#### **HIKE & SEEK CONTEST**

April was the last month of the Hike & Seek Contest was successful in that it publicized the Town Forest. There were no correct answers submitted therefore there were no prizes awarded.

#### **BIOTHON**

The May 21, 2011 Fremont Biothon event will be held at the Glen Oakes Town Forest.

Chrm. O'Brien reported that Frank Mitchell and Phil Auger will meet at the Glen Oakes property on Tuesday, May 3 at 2:30 pm to observe the property and to see what habitats are there and what might make a good route to follow for the Bio-Blitz. He invited the Conservation Commission Members to join them on that date and offered that if this was not possible he could go out with them at another time before the event.

Chrm. O'Brien said Mbr. deBeer is creating a really nice poster for the biothon and needs to know whether to include a kids event. Previously there was a discussion of whether to have a kids event as part of the biothon, but there were no specific plans so the Members agreed not to include it this time.

The Members agreed to provide coffee, sandwich wraps and finger foods at the entrance of the Town Forest at the conclusion of the biothon event. Alt. Miner made the motion to fund reimbursement for

## Fremont Conservation Commission

### 5-02-11 meeting Minutes

refreshments from the Residual Fund. Motion seconded by Alt. Bolduc with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. Knee previously e-mailed to the Members a check list of species he created from the species listed in Charlie Moreno's report for the biothon that could be used by participants. He added a few other categories and will be adding species as he observes and verifies them.

#### GRANTS

Mbr. deBeer reported via e-mail;

1. The receipt of a \$10,000 check from the William P. Wharton Trust for land acquisition of the Smith Project. This was as a result of a grant Mbr. deBeer applied for and was awarded. She said that it should be endorsed by Chrm. O'Brien, which Chrm. O'Brien did. It was agreed to send a thank you letter from the Commission.
2. That the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has announced the availability of Watershed Assistance Grants for High Quality Waters to support local initiatives to control nonpoint source pollution, and address pollution problems through local watershed management.

#### ERLAC

Mbr. deBeer reported the April 26, 2011 ERLAC minutes via e-mail:

1. Sally Soule gave an update on project implementation as a result of the Fluvial Geomorphology Study. She supplied information for a pre-proposal application for the NH DES *Watershed Assistance Grants for High Quality Waters*. A copy is attached for your convenience. She asked each Town to select a project from the list and craft a pre-proposal.
2. Tom Irwin from the "Conservation Law Foundation", an environmental action group, was at the meeting to discuss the impaired waters (does not meet the state water quality standards regulated by the Clean Water Act) of Great Bay. The Bay is impaired because of increasing nitrogen levels and loss of eelgrass habitat. The nitrogen level has increased 42% in the last five years. The Clean Water Act requires regulatory action to clean up impaired waters, i.e. to end their impaired status. One critical requirement is discharge permits for sewage treatment plants must prevent discharges from causing or contributing to impairments. This requires the sewage treatment plants and storm water discharges into Great Bay be upgraded so that nitrogen released will be no more than 3 mg/liter. What is happening to Great Bay is what happened to the Chesapeake Bay. It is very expensive to reverse and impossible to reverse 100%.

The EPA is not taking prompt action to insure this occurs, endangering even more habitat and water quality. There was a discussion about Frank Guinta, who is recommending that all EPA activity cease for five years while the situation is being studied. Scientists from UNH have been studying this already for several years and the science is sound. There is concern about the damage to the Bay because of delayed action.

The Exeter sewage treatment plant permit expired in 2005 and the EPA has only recently issued a draft permit to get Exeter to comply with the rules. This delay has serious consequences because of the fact that there are 20 sewage treatment plants discharging into the rivers that flow into Great Bay, four of which are in Maine. Mr. Irwin requests that interested citizens and organizations write to the EPA asking them to take action to enforce nitrogen limits consistent with the Clean Water Act expediently. Write to:

Mr. Curt Spalding

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **5-02-11 meeting Minutes**

Regional Administrator

U.S. EPA New England  
5 Post Office Square Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

3. The Lower Exeter Squamscott River Nomination to the State Rivers Management and Protection Program has been successful thus far as it proceeds through the New Hampshire legislature.
4. ERLAC's annual Vernal Pool Workshop will be on May 14 in Exeter from 10 a.m. until noon. IT will begin in the Norwak room at Town Hall for a presentation on vernal pools.
5. ERLAC's Great Dam Fish Ladder tour will be on June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. at the Fish Ladder in Exeter.
6. There will be a kayak event this summer at Chapman's landing on the Squamscott River. The details, including the date, are in the planning process.
7. There was a discussion on concern about how DOT is fixing the bridge that washed out in Brentwood. A meeting recently took place between representatives from Brentwood and DOT. The ERLAC members that were present feel that their concerns about the speed of the water and the fish and other wildlife in the river are not being addressed, even after the meeting.

#### **EXETER RIVER**

Chrm. O'Brien reported that she received a phone call from Larry Dobson relative to several downed trees in the Exeter River by his property on Emerson Drive. She advised him to contact NH DES.

#### **DEXTER BURLEY PROPERTY**

Map 4 Lot 076

Chrm. O'Brien received an April 21, 2011 e-mail message from Phil Auger, (UNH Cooperative Extension) advising that Dexter Burley is selling the land that he owns along Rt 125 in Epping & Lee and the 10 acre Fremont parcel near Spruce Swamp directly behind the Paint Mines gravel pit needs to be taken care of. Mr. Auger thinks Mr. Burley may be willing to give the land away to the town. If not, the price will be very modest. She showed an aerial view printout of the parcel. Chrm. O'Brien said we may be closer to the purchase process.

At the September 20, 2010 meeting the Conservation Commission voted to recommend accepting the land donation of Dexter Burley to be added to the Town forest land for conservation purposes.

#### **PROFIT & LOSS BUDGET**

The Board received and reviewed the CC P&L statement for January through March, 2011.

#### **MARK WOODMAN**

BEST MACHINE, INC.

79 Beede Hill Road

Map 3 Lot 062

The Commission received from the ZBA a notice of an April 26, 2011 Public Hearing and a comment sheet for Mark and Cheryl Woodman who are seeking a Special Exception from Article XI Section E-6-1 and a Variance from Article XVIII Section 7 of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance to allow the

## **Fremont Conservation Commission**

### **5-02-11 meeting Minutes**

continuance and expansion of an existing non-conforming metal products business on their property which is in a Flexible Use Residential Zone and the Aquifer Protection District.

The Members reviewed the application and the zoning articles. Following some discussion the Members agreed to issue the following statement on the comment sheet; "The Conservation Commission acknowledges that the ZBA will be reviewing the Engineers written report and upon such review and acceptance by the ZBA the Conservation Commission is agreeable to granting the Special Exception. The Conservation Commission does request a copy of the Engineer report."

VENUS JOHNSON

Map 3 Lot 054-1-7

42 Bluefish Drive

The Commission has received a copy of the April 14, 2011 Standard Dredge & Fill Application submitted to the NH DES Wetlands Bureau by Venus Johnson for her property located 42 Bluefish Drive (Map 3 Lot 054-1-7) to be allowed to construct a 6' addition that will impact 61 sf of a prime wetland buffer.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no incoming correspondence.

Chrm. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn at 9 pm. Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc

Land Use AA/Recording Secretary